

Free Teacher Workshop: Lessons, Practice, Stipend, and Ciscoe Morris

Looking for new material to excite your students about learning AND help the environment? The King County Solid Waste Division is presenting its free **Hazards on the Homefront** workshop for teachers of grades 4-12 on Wednesday, August 15, 2001 from 8am to 4pm at Seattle University. This workshop is teacher-friendly and meets Essential Academic Learning Requirements. Included is a tour of the campus garden and tips on safer gardening from head gardener and expert Ciscoe Morris.

Ready-to-use lesson plans that are easy to integrate into existing curriculum, information on safer alternatives, and ideas on how to teach your students to improve their health and safety will be demonstrated. An optional tour (required for college credit) of the West Point Wastewater Treatment Plant is scheduled for August 16. Certified King County teachers will receive a \$75 stipend on completion of workshop objectives. Lunch, refreshments, and many teaching resources are included. To register or for more information, call Karen Schrantz or Sara Gersten-Rothenberg at (206) 583-0655 or email kschrantz@triangleassociates.com.

For a complete list of programs, visit the County’s website at: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/schoolpg.htm>

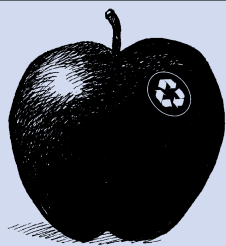
Free Programs Returning This Fall

- Look for the new elementary school assembly program focused on habitat stewardship and conservation of resources. Call (206) 583-0655 to receive scheduling information.
- *Natural Connections* workshops: *Soils for Salmon* and *Biodiversity* will again be offered to middle and high school classes. Call (206) 343-9759 for information.
- *Hazards on the Homefront* Teacher Workshop on Friday, October 12, 2001 in Renton. Save the date for this free workshop. Call (206) 583-0655 for information.

Class Act — June 2001

King County Solid Waste Division School Newsletter
c/o Triangle Associates, Inc.
811 First Ave., #255
Seattle, Washington 98104

PASS IT ON—
When you are done with this issue, pass it on to someone else who may be interested.



Class Act

King County Solid Waste Division's School Recycling Program Newsletter



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EEAW Recognizes the King County Solid Waste Division School Program

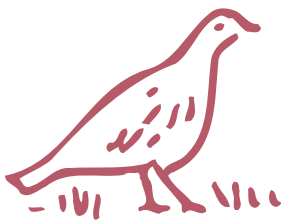
The King County Solid Waste Division School Program received the **Organizational Excellence Award** from the Environmental Education Association of Washington (EEAW) for its comprehensive educational programs. These programs are designed to motivate and sustain behavior change in the school community in the areas of waste prevention, recycling, and the proper management of solid and hazardous waste. The programs use solid waste and recycling to help students make the connections to habitat stewardship, water quality, and biodiversity. Visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/schoolpr/schoolpg.htm> to find out more about King County’s programs.

These Green Teams are Tops!



The **Maple Hills Elementary Student Council** (Issaquah) initiated a milk carton recycling program in the school lunchroom, even giving up recess time to train students in the lunchroom! Approximately 225 milk and juice cartons per school day will now be saved from going into the landfill – that adds up to over 40,000 each school year.

Lea Hill Elementary (Auburn) fourth-graders in Mary Mondt’s class made birdfeeders, birdhouses, and seed and seedling displays out of recycled milk cartons. The seedlings in the displays grew into a garden for the whole school to see, while the students created Earth Day themes on paper grocery bags *and* held an Earth Poster contest for all the Lea Hill students. Prizes donated by the Rainforest Café in the Southcenter Mall were awarded to the top “Save the Environment” posters.



Cindy Plett’s third and fourth-grade class at **Lake Wilderness Elementary School** (Tahoma) has made great strides in cutting down on waste this year. The class created skits about recycling that they performed for all the other classes in the school! The PTA purchased recycle bins for the entire school and set up a pick-up schedule with a

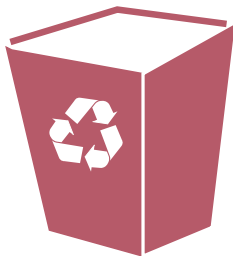
hauler. The class has also created arts projects with “reusable junk” such as mass-mailed CDs.

At **Rock Creek Elementary** (Tahoma), Kay Hoffman’s third-grade class completed a large project connecting nature and environmental health with writing. All five third-grade classes (150 students) participated in several activities: they planted a natural garden with a butterfly



garden, an herb section, and veggies; hosted several guest speakers on various environmental topics; wrote about what they learned in recycling workshops; and will build worm bins in June.

At **Mirror Lake Elementary** (Federal Way), Carol Novotney’s second-grade students created models, diagrams, and structures out of recycled materials for homework. These recycled projects were displayed and were inspiration for other classrooms. In a separate project, the same second-graders also used the Seattle Times newspaper for math, vocabulary and phonics lessons – then



reused the paper for framing art projects, folding projects, and envelopes. After they finished, they recycled the remaining portions of the paper.

Zero In On Waste Mini-Grants Projects

With the aid of a *Zero In On Waste* mini-grant, Kathryn Boudreau’s science fiction classes at **Beaver Lake Middle School** (Issaquah) are designing an environmentally sound, three-dimensional living space to be built of recycled materials. The buildings are also designed to use land optimally without depleting resources. The project will utilize information from speakers who will discuss biosolids, water and materials conservation, passive solar use, and recycling and waste management.

Don Wilson’s 9-12th-grade horticulture classes at **West Auburn High School** (Auburn) used their mini-grant to purchase four different composters to compost vegetable and fruit scraps from the school’s lunch program; grass, leaves, and shrub clippings from the school grounds; and weeds and clippings from the classes’ raised bed, vegetable gardens. The compost will be used in their gardens.

Using Art to Learn about the Environment

King County’s RecycleArtist Program has provided schools with some creative opportunities to explore recycling and other environmental issues. This year **McKnight Middle School**, **Cascade Middle School**, and **Inglewood Junior High School** used dramatic art techniques taught by **One World Theatre** to incorporate the concepts of rethink, reduce, reuse recycle in writing and producing a play. Students at **Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart** worked on a similar project with theater artists **Mavis Lamb** and **Christopher Zinovitch**. Students at **B.E.S.T. Alternative School**, under the guidance of **Leah Mann** and **Ela Lamblin** of **Lelavision**, learned how to creatively reuse waste materials by transforming them into musical instruments. **Juanita High School** and **Inglemoor High School** students composed songs about the environment in a project with songwriter **Jim Vick**. Video artists from **911 Media** worked with **Skyhomish High School** and **B.E.S.T. Alternative School** students to create videos about conservation. The results of all the projects were shared with the student body and/or community. For information on the RecycleArtist Program, contact Bill Smith at (206) 296-4407.

Girl Scouts Earn *Be Toxic Free* Patch

Over fifty Girl Scouts have earned their *Be Toxic Free* patch this year by attending a fun and interactive workshop on the topic of household hazardous waste (HHW). As an alternative to the workshops, Girl Scout leaders who want teaching resources about HHW can now check out brand-new HHW activity tubs from service centers around Puget Sound. Contact your Girl Scout office or Gail Gensler at (206) 263-3082 or gail.gensler@metrokc.gov. for more information.



Student stenciling storm drain at Tyee High School.

Tyee High School Cleanup

Kudos to the students and teacher Nancy Branom at **Tyee HS** (Highline) who rose early on Saturday, April 28th to participate in a campus clean-up! Jessica Slagle, Mike Nguyen, Krystal Nelson, Tracie Strelow, Ann Nguyen, Kori Brousseau, and Melody Martens went right to work stenciling storm drains around the school grounds. These stencilings serve as reminders to everyone that the water that empties into the storm drains runs directly into streams and the Puget Sound, affecting wildlife along the way. The work didn’t stop there - the crew then cleaned up the school campus, picking up litter and sorting out recyclables. This is a great example of students and teachers taking action to protect biodiversity and our world!

HHW Family Exhibit Tours Fairs this Summer

Reach your hands into a mock sewage pipe, race someone in a label-reading magnet board game, or spin a wheel to learn safe alternatives to hazardous products at the Household Hazardous Waste Family Exhibit. Take home a WasteMobile schedule and other information about hazardous products at home. And...win a Green Cleaning Kit or a beanie baby of a Northwest animal!

Look for the exhibit at Maple Valley Days (June 9/10), Auburn Kids Day (June 22), the Shoreline Arts Festival (June 23/24) and on through the summer all around the County. For more information about the schedule, call Gail Gensler at (206) 263-3082 or visit www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/teachers/exhibit.htm

EARTH HEROES

Earth Heroes at School Award Winners



For their outstanding contributions in schools, King County recognized 19 outstanding teachers, staff, students, programs, and schools for their work to protect our environment at a ceremony on March 27, 2001. For more information (and photos), visit www.metrokc.gov/earthlegacy.

★ Teachers

An outstanding environmental leader for over 15 years, **Janet Charnley** involves students at the Evergreen School in such hands-on projects as Thornton Creek restoration and creating wildlife habitat on school grounds and at the local park.

Through **Bill Hayden**’s ongoing work on the Snoqualmie Wetland Project, a garbage-filled, overgrown, inaccessible slough near Snoqualmie Elementary School has changed into a healthy wetland that serves as an outdoor classroom.

As founder and co-director of the Thornton Creek Project, **Peter Hayes**, Lakeside School, forged a new model of watershed education that involves school community, and business members, working together as stewards of their local creek.

Bill Levin involves students at Hamilton Middle School in several environmental and community projects, including building an organic garden and donating the produce as well as their time to the food bank. He has also instituted a number of innovative waste reduction and recycling efforts at the school.

Naticia Litven has conducted the Des Moines Creek Enhancement Project for three years with her sixth-grade students at Des Moines Elementary. They monitor water quality and stream ecology and have planted trees along the stream bank to support salmon habitat.

For five years, **Gale Lundberg** has led the Rock Creek Elementary School Environmental Club, whose projects include picking up litter at Rock Creek, writing letters to elected officials on environmental issues, and performing a play, “Save our Salmon,” for the community.

Maggie Wheatley involves her students at Skykomish School in litter clean-ups, tree planting, composting, and using recycled materials. Through these activities and others, Maggie teaches her students the importance of taking care of their community for future generations.

This team of seventh grade teachers at Maywood Middle School, **Seth Adams**, **Alice Finch**, **Jacquie Hyler**, **Tara Nessen**, **Dawn Robinson**, **Bob Ruud**, **Mike Sullivan**, and **Holly Wagner**, integrated a curriculum that explores the difficult question of how to manage forest practices in King County given increased human populations and decreased fish populations.

★ Staff

Trish Hamilton has organized the fourth and fifth-grade students at Cherry Valley Elementary into the “Recycling Brigade.” She also started the lunchroom recycling effort, giving the school’s food waste to a local pig farmer.

An interpreter for the deaf and hard of hearing, **Lynn Ronald** has been an inspiration to kids at View Ridge Elementary by leading the Student Council in environmental projects such as working on the school’s butterfly garden.

Selim Uzuner set up the Tolt Middle School recycling program by recruiting students for the Recycling Club which recycles 800-1000 lbs. of aluminum cans and up to 15 tons of mixed paper annually. Students further learn about the positive effects of recycling through classroom workshops and field trips.

★ Students

Bruce Heather Jr., **Vicki Huggins**, and **Sara Ladenburg** conducted an extensive water quality project for a Science Fair and then continued to research water quality in their community. As leaders of the Tyee High School Environmental Club, they have presented their findings to the community.

Ivana Mohar leads and organizes the Bothell High School Earth Club and spearheads numerous school and community activities including recycling and litter control. Her efforts have raised environmental awareness on campus significantly.

Tor Pederson, Woodinville High School, actively participates in the operations of a campus and community recycling program to make it the best it can be. His consistent dedication has been a big part of the success behind this award-winning program.

★ Programs

Eagle and Orca Clans at the Pathfinder School have provided ongoing stewardship of Mee Kwa Mooks Park in West Seattle for the past five years. The third, fourth, and fifth-graders have cleared away noxious weeds, planted the area with native plants, and done stream bank restoration.

Marcia Wubbens, **Pat Valle**, **Kim Pesik**, and **Cinead Kubiak**, teachers at Einstein Middle School, created the **Soul Salmon Project**, the culminating event of two years of intensive environmental study involving their 300 students. Last year, students conducted field research on Boeing Creek and this year will focus on Thornton Creek.

★ Schools

The Environmental and Adventure School provides a unique environmentally-focused, integrated, thematic curriculum to multi-age classes of middle level students. Students do over 10,000 hours of stewardship each year.

The school garden at **Orca Elementary** (**Anza Muenchow**, Master Gardener) introduces all students to composting, planting, planning and maintaining a garden and is a focal point for the community.

The **Two Rivers School**, under the direction of **Joe Burgener**, **Elise Cooksley**, **Denise Atkinson**, and students, has been involved in restoring one-quarter mile of shoreline along the Snoqualmie River at Tolt MacDonald Park in Carnation and planting trees at Three Forks Natural Area in Snoqualmie. Plans are underway to restore more habitat areas.

